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hands of students for use in connection with special courses on the subject. In the arrangement of cases Mr. Evans has wisely followed the usual subdivisions of the treatises on International Law, so that his book can readily be used with any of the standard commentaries. His cases have been selected with the greatest care and adequately illustrate every phase of the subject.

One cannot help but feel that at the close of the war it will be necessary to publish new editions of many of these case books, owing to the fact that there will be available a large number of decisions modifying accepted jurisprudence with reference to questions of international law.

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WILLOUGHBY, WILLIAM F.; WILLOUGHBY, WESTEL W.; and LINDSAY, SAMUEL McCUNE. *The Financial Administration of Great Britain*. Pp. xv, 361. Price, \$2.75. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1917.

This report is the result of an investigation made in Great Britain in the summer of 1914 by the authors acting as an unofficial commission, and is now published by the recently established Institute for Government Research. It presents a detailed and somewhat technical account of the administrative procedure in the United Kingdom in connection with the preparation of estimates, the action thereon in Parliament, the disbursement of public funds, the Treasury control over expenditures, the audit of public accounts and the system of financial reports. This is based on a close study of official documents and reports, especially the report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure (1902), and the Report of the Select Committee on Estimates (1912).

This study should be of great value in working out improved budget and finance methods in this country. And in the conclusions, the report calls attention to some fundamental factors which have been hitherto almost ignored in most of the writings on these subjects,—the distinction between formulating a budgetary program and the action by the legislative body on such a program and the importance of organs and a procedure for an effective supervision over the acts of administrative officers.

Serviceable as is this report, it is in some respects open to criticism. In view of the use made of the report of the Select Committee on Estimates in 1912, it is surprising that there is nothing from the reports of this committee in 1913 and 1914. The latter reports deal with the Navy and Army Estimates; and an examination of them shows (as is pointed out by E. H. Young in *The System of National Finance*, 1915) that the Treasury control over the estimates for military expenditures is much less intensive and effective than it is over the civil service estimates, and that the decision on these important parts of the budget not infrequently is made in the Cabinet.

One of the principles of the British system is stated (p. 275) to be that the Treasury, in exercising control over the preparation of estimates and expenditure of funds, acts in effect as an agent of Parliament. But it is not made clear how the Treasury is now any more an agent of Parliament than are the other executive departments.

It appears that the only effective parliamentary action on finance in Great Britain is the criticism of the Committee on Public Accounts on the audited financial reports. Not even the House of Commons either controls or effectively criticises the financial proposals of the ministry. The recent Committee on Estimates was an indication that the need for a more direct supervision by the House of Commons has been felt in Great Britain. In view of this situation, it would be a serious mistake to introduce in this country a budget system which would reduce our legislative bodies to the function of ratifying executive proposals, as is now the case in the British system.

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SOCIOLOGY

CASTLE, W. E. *Genetics and Eugenics*. Pp. vi, 353. Price, \$1.50. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1916.

This is a welcome addition to the rapidly growing list of books which set forth the newer results and problems of biology and show their application to human life. Moreover, it is well illustrated.

Beginning with Darwin, we are taken through the period of Weismann and the controversy over the question of the inheritance of acquired characters. Then we are told of the Mutation theory and the work of Mendel and his successors. Several chapters deal with the unit characters of rodents, cattle and horses, sheep, swine, dogs, cats, poultry and insects. Attention is then directed to the questions of sex determination, size inheritance, and some of the other disputed points.

Beginning with page 233 human heredity is discussed. The author questions (on social rather than physical grounds) the wisdom of crosses between widely separated human races and holds that there is not enough evidence to justify the popular objection on physical grounds alone. Much information has been gathered with reference to human heredity, but Dr. Castle feels that a large part of this is unreliable "because of the careless or biased way in which it has been gathered, or the uncritical treatment which it has received in publication." He feels that in America there is a danger that the biologically unfit may increase more rapidly than the biologically fit. Yet there is great danger in the assumption that we now know enough to start a program of positive eugenics. "Practically, therefore, we are limited to such eugenic measures as the individual will voluntarily take in the light of present knowledge of heredity."

In the appendix is given a translation of Mendel's original paper on *Experiments in Plant-Hybridization*.

The volume will be of great interest and value to laymen as well as biologists; indeed, we may assume that the latter know the facts now.

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